

Claims:

C17 1. A pneumatic control system including a pump and at least one inflatable/deflatable article, control means
 5 for operation of the pump, connection means for connecting the article and pump for fluid flow therethrough, ^{and} communication means provided on each of the pump and article, wherein upon connection between the pump and article at least one of said communication means
 10 ^{is} capable of identifying the article and instructing the control means to activate the pump accordingly.

2. A pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication means are capable of exchanging
 15 information or energy so as to identify the article as that compatible to the pump and to instruct the pump control means to operate ^{at} a predetermined inflation and/or deflation of the article by the pump accordingly.

20 3. A pneumatic control system as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the communication means on the article is located within the connection means.

4. A pneumatic control system as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1, 2~~
 25 ~~or 3~~, wherein during use the respective communication means do not contact each other.

30 5. A pneumatic control system including a pump and an inflatable/deflatable support for a patient to lie on, control means to operate the pump, ^{and} connection means for connecting the support and pump for fluid flow therethrough, wherein the pump and support have

respective communication means, at least one said communication means¹² capable of identifying the article and to instruct the pump control means to activate the pump accordingly.

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6. A pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the said communication means are capable of exchanging information or energy to identify the support and to instruct the pump control means to operate the pump to provide a predetermined inflation/deflation of the support for a patient lying thereon.

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7. A pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the support communication means may be located within the connection means connecting the support to the pump.

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8. A pneumatic control system including a pump and at least one inflatable/deflatable garment to be wrapped around a user's limb, control means to operate the pump, connection means for connecting the garment and pump for fluid flow therethrough, wherein the pump and garment(s) have respective communication means, at least one of said communication means¹³ capable of identifying the garment(s) and instructing the pump control means to activate the pump accordingly.

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9. A pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the said communication means are capable of exchanging information or energy to identify the garment(s) and to instruct the pump control means to activate the pump accordingly and to instruct the pump to

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control means to operate the pump to provide a predetermined inflation/deflation cycle of the garment(s) suited to the garments' application.

- 5 10. A pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 8 ~~or~~
~~8~~, wherein the garment communication means may be located within the connection means connecting the garment to the pump.

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